The Builder.

No. CCCII.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1848.

LIFE is being lengthened,—not alone by sanitary measures, but by those applications of science which shorten distances, spread intelligence, and collect and condense knowledge; so that a man may now see, acquire, and do, as much in *one* year as his great-grandfather could in *five*. So much the more shame to him if he use not his opportunities well.

May we give a personal illustration of the truth of the first assertion? Our late visit to Scotland, when we were invited to lecture on ARCHITECTURE in places where, as we were afterwards informed (much to our astonishment), no person had ever publicly discoursed on architecture before, and the subject was altogether a novelty, occupied twelve working days and two Sundays. In that time we travelled nearly fourteen hundred miles; gave *ten* lectures—namely, four in Glasgow, under the title of "History in Brick and Stone;"* three in Kilmarnock, two in Paisley, and one in Dundee; were occupied flatteringly, as already mentioned, one whole evening, by the Glasgow authorities; and wrote for and edited, as satisfactorily as if at home, thanks to the perfection of postal arrangements, one number of our journal. This would not simply have been a *feat* on the part of the great-grandfather aforesaid, but a sheer impossibility; yet, in the present case, it was accomplished with little personal effort, and is not spoken of as a matter of wonderment, or as warranting the slightest approach to self-gratulation, but just because it is what any who chose might do, and, therefore, affords an apt illustration of the remark, that life is being lengthened.

The intelligence and ability displayed by all classes in Scotland are very considerable, and can scarcely fail to be observed: such inscriptions as that over a door in Paisley serve to explain the state of things,—"The Grammar Scuil, 1586." It is gratifying to learn that scruples and prejudices are giving way before the strength of common sense, and that our northern neighbours are beginning to apply themselves in a road up to this time little trodden, namely,—the study and preservation of their antiquities. All their local guides for some years past have contained lamentations for previous neglect and injuries, and have urged the importance of investigation and care in future. "Architectural antiquities," writes one, after pointing out how much careful accounts of their ancient buildings are needed, "however dilapidated and time-worn, are objects of incalculable value and interest. They are indexes of the most memorable events in history—the lives of monarchs, statesmen, patriots, and philosophers,—and point out, with the palsied finger of antiquity, the progress of refinement, from the barbarous ages in which they flourished, to the present happy and [comparatively] enlightened period."†

The Abbey of Paisley, which gave the first of the Stuarts to the throne of Scotland,‡ was a building of large extent, and still displays considerable remains. It was founded in 1160, and is attributed to John Morrow, by some authors called Murdo, who, according to an inscription in Melrose Abbey, "had in keping al mason werk of Santandrays (St. Andrew's), ye hye Kirk of Glasgu, Melros, and Paslay." The nave of the ancient church is used for service; and, though coarse in details, is remarkable for a considerable degree of grandeur. It is peculiar in having a series of large stone brackets (half a hexagon of 9 feet in the longest diameter, and projecting 3 feet 6 inches) in the spandrels of the triforium, under the clerestory windows, and which assist to form a passage-way from one end of the church to the other. The transepts and chancel of the old church lie open, and are used as a burial-place. The west front of the nave is of good Early English character, but the greater part of the church internally can scarcely be earlier than the end of the fifteenth century. The demolition of the abbey took place under such an order as this:—"Traist Friends,—After maist hartey commendation, we pray you faill not till pass incontinent to ye kyrk of Paisley, and tak doun ye haill images yrof, & bryng furth till ye kirkyard & birn thym oppingly, & syklyk cast doun ye altris & picturis, & purge ye sayd kyrk o' a' kynds o' monuments of idolatrie; and this ye fail not till doe, as ye will doe us singular empleasance, and sae committis you till ye protection of God. From Edinburgh, 12 August, MDLX.

Signed ARGYLE.
JAMES STEWART.
RUTHVEN."

The interior of the church is now filled with pews and a large gallery, which, according to the local historian before quoted, are most judicious, and "render the *tout ensemble* most complete," but are, in truth, perfectly abominable.

They have an excellent cemetery at Paisley, occupying 23 acres, which forms, at the same time, public walking-grounds. It contains many neat monuments, and commands a fine view.

In the same town a school of design has been established, and a new building of considerable extent, not yet opened, has been erected for the purpose, by Mr. J. T. Lamb, a local architect. The late master of the Norwich school has been transferred here, but not without a controversy. Alas! poor school of design! It might as properly be called a school of *plots*.

Moving on a little further, *apropos of* design, Kilmarnock boasts the production of a self-taught artist, John K. Hunter, whose works as a portrait painter merit commendation. He is known in that part of Scotland as the "Kilmarnock Cobbler," from having been bred to that trade. In 1831 a number of amateur artists, natives of this town, formed themselves into a society, under the name of the "Kilmarnock Drawing Academy," the object of which was mutual improvement in painting. Mr. Hunter was one of these; and out of forty-five pictures, the largest number ever exhibited by the members at one time, sixteen were by him. These he executed in time stolen from the toil at his trade, which eight children required from him. In the day he was seen in the Academy a devoted student; at night he would be found beating out the sole of a pair of shoes with his hammer, labouring for the support of his family. For some years past, however, he has pursued the profession of portrait painting. The story is not without a lesson.

Mr. Fillans' statue of Sir James Shaw, Bart., which was set up at the cross in Kilmarnock in August last, is for the most part a very satisfactory production, and a great ornament to the town. It is of Carrara marble, rather larger than life, and stands on a pedestal of Aberdeen granite. He is attired in his robes as Lord Mayor, and rests on his left leg with the right knee a little advanced: in his right hand he holds a roll, and with the left his robe: the hands, by the way, are too large. The pose is agreeable, and the likeness is said to be good.

At Mauchline, about nine miles from Kilmarnock, there is a railway viaduct of very large size, which has become one of the lions of the place: we were unable, however, to visit it. The span of the main arch is 154 feet, and the height of the crown of it from the water 152 feet.

It is some distance from Kilmarnock to Dundee, 130 miles perhaps, but the "Iron-horse" makes nothing of this. The road is charming too: hills, glens, trees, streams, and cots succeed each other in quick and beautiful succession. The *Carron* river suggestive of cheap stoves!); the Bannockburn; Stirling, with its castle finely placed, and two bridges over the Forth; Allan-water; Dunblane to say nothing of "Jessie"!). Perth.—all are full of tradition and poetry, and keep the mind, as well as the eye, occupied during the journey.

Dundee is an extensive and interesting town. The railway from Perth, which passes through the glorious Firth of Tay, parallel with the town, and so cuts it off from the sea, enclosing, moreover, an expanse of stagnant water between the line and the houses, has much injured it, and calls for alteration.

Amongst the modern buildings in Dundee may be enumerated the Public Seminary, by Mr. Angus, architect, having a Grecian Doric portico of six columns; Ward Chapel, a Gothic edifice, erected about fifteen years ago, by Mr. Brewster, since dead, and better in character than some even more recent Gothic buildings in Scotland, although it would not bear trial by present English canons. We may also mention the "Watt Institution," a commodious and well-designed building, erected in 1836, under Mr. Paterson, architect, also since dead.

Among the ancient buildings, the east

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* A pregnant and continuous history it is; as the following brief heads of the discourses will suffice to suggest. No. 1. Introduction—Interesting nature of the study of Architecture—Its History, the History of Society—Origin—Biblical Architecture — Stones of Memorial — Stonehenge — Rocking Stones — Babylon — Babel — Solomon's Temple—Mexican Monuments—Egypt—Gigantic Nature of the Buildings—Circumstances which influenced Egyptian Architecture—Importance of Egypt—The Pyramids, their Construction and Purpose, Recent Theory—Tombs—Reflections induced. —No. 2. Egypt continued—The Labyrinth—Thebes—Luxor and Carnak—General Appearance of an Egyptian Temple—Characteristics of Egyptian Architecture—Rock-cut Temples —Obelisks—Transport of the Luxor Obelisk to Paris, means adopted to raise it—Effect of early Forms on Architecture—India—Greece—Cyclopean and Pelasgic Construction—Connection of Egypt and Greece—Earliest Buildings—The Age of Pericles—Temples—Characteristics of Grecian Architecture—Theories of its origin—The "Orders"—Modern Examples—Art in Athens—The Parthenon.—No. 3. Polychromy—Etruria—Italy—Rome—Connection with Etruria and Greece—The Augustan period—Pantheon—Coliseum—Baths, importance of the present movement—The Forum—Appearance of Rome—Effect of the introduction of the Arch—Its History—Characteristics of Roman Architecture—Pompeii—Domestic Architecture—Fall of Rome—Constantine—Byzantium—Christian Churches—Mosaics and other Decorations—Growth of a new style of Architecture—The Goths and Lombards—Architecture in Britain—Importance of preserving Ancient Remains—The Saxons—The Normans —Village Churches—The value of the Fine Arts.—No. 4. Invention of the Pointed Arch—Various Theories—Maher's intersecting Arches—Rise and Progress of the Pointed Style —Examples—The Freemasons — Their singular Skill — Masons' Marks—The Cathedrals of England, Germany, and France—Castles—Decay of Gothic Architecture—Revival of the Classic style—Elizabethan Architecture—Inigo Jones—Wren—Fire of London—St. Paul's—Attention to the residences of the People—State of Public feeling at the present moment relative to Ecclesiastical Architecture—Evils to be guarded against—The Seminary Question—Conclusion.

† "Historical Description of the Abbey and Town of Paisley," by Charles Mackie. Sold by Mr. Stewart, an intelligent publisher of the town.

‡ Spelled in the Records of Paisley, *Stewart*. Mary, Queen of Scots, appears to have been the first who changed it to Stuart.

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